

I trust you are enjoying your holiday. As you know, I got your grades entered a little late. It took lots of time to evaluate 1,100 computations (two classes of Phys-141) and your 300 essays. I'm writing to give you a last communication on the final exam, student evaluations, and the future, which includes UNIV-392.



Some students expressed that the reading was excessive, others that it was less than might be expected from a GE. Most students agreed that there were too many different books, and that Steph and I should reduce the list to the books we found most desirable.

We need to better define the interventions in the syllabus.

Request for more field trips and specialist speakers. The SEF is a great place to meet for a class. We should visit my house.

It was suggested we reduce class size. However, this was greatly disputed by the majority of the students. Some of these students would not have been able to get into the class, and some others found that the greater number of students provided a more compelling learning environment.

The degree to which Steph or I (the facilitators) should direct discussion was something that is a difficult balance. There was request for more autonomy – in that the facilitator doesn't need to respond to each statement, but that other students can respond directly to each statement. There was also a request for more structure to the class. Is there a way we could have both? I'm not sure we came upon a solution for this.

Grades:

The final exams were well done in my opinion. The average grade was 42.4 out of 50. I've posted your final exam grade on Poly-Learn. I really enjoyed the final presentations and everyone got a good grade on them and the website as well.

Evaluations:

I haven't received the tabulation of the bubbled evaluations, but 24 people wrote comments, which varied from expressions of gratitude to demands that UNIV-391 be a required GE for all Cal Poly students to declarations of moral outrage for having been subjected to such poor teaching, to complaints of having spent money on the UNIV-391 education commodity. Many students indicated that the class was not sufficiently organized. Many students felt personally challenged in a way that sounded difficult as well as valuable - me too. I'm grateful to receive all your thoughts and feelings. Thanks.

UNIV-392:

We have loads of space in the "design and build" appropriate technology class this winter. Please tell your friends about this area-F opportunity. UNIV-391 is not a prerequisite. Additionally, if the lab times don't work with the schedule, we can work something out. Please have anyone who is interested call me.

Other Future Stuff:

Thanks for the opportunity of learning with you this quarter. I think that the predominant concept that surfaced for me was that empathy is a powerful learning mechanism. Please feel free to include me in your communications as you may wish or join us again in any facet that you find compelling.